

## Chestnut Lamprey *Ichthyomyzon castaneus*

**Habitat Preference:** Adults are parasitic on other fishes and are found in moderate-sized to large rivers. Larvae require a sand or muddy substrate in small streams. After an approximately 18-month life span, as adults, the chestnut lamprey come to spawn in smaller streams, and die shortly thereafter.



### Threats:

- Deteriorating habitat quality due to siltation and nutrient runoff; this species is intolerant of polluted water.
- Reduction in turbidity due to presence of mainstream dams has altered the aquatic ecosystem.
  - Alters water flow regimes and interfere with spawning.
  - Prevent movement to spawning habitat.
- Channel modifications (channelization; channel training structures) reduce habitat complexity (e.g., eliminate sandbars).
- Loss of spawning area due to siltation and pollution.
- Persecution by anglers
  - Many anglers find chestnut lampreys attached to game fish and incorrectly assume they are detrimental to the game fish population.
  - Chestnut lampreys are confused with sea lampreys; an exotic species detrimental to native fish populations.



### Appropriate Practices:

- Create buffers around water bodies to filter out sediment and nutrients.
- Educate anglers to the difference between the native lampreys and the exotic sea lamprey.